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form

[noun](#)

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\ 'fɔrm  \
plural forms

Definition of *form*

(Entry 1 of 4)

1a : the shape and structure of something as distinguished from its material the building's massive form

b : a body (as of a person) especially in its external appearance or as distinguished from the face : [figure](#) the female form

c archaic : [beauty](#)

2 : the essential nature of a thing as distinguished from its matter: such as

a : [idea sense 4c](#)

b : the component of a thing that determines its kind

3a : established method of expression or proceeding : procedure according to rule or rote also : a standard or expectation based on past experience : [precedent](#) true to form, the champions won again

b : a prescribed and set order of words : [formula](#) the form of the marriage service

4 : a printed or typed document with blank spaces for insertion of required or requested information tax forms

5a(1) : conduct regulated by extraneous (see [extraneous sense 1](#)) controls (as of custom or etiquette) : [ceremony](#)

(2) : show without substance

b : manner or conduct as tested by a prescribed or accepted standard rudeness is simply bad form

c : manner or style of performing or accomplishing according to recognized standards of technique a strong swimmer but weak on form

6a : the resting place or nest of a hare

b : a long seat : [bench](#)

7a : a supporting frame model of the human figure or part (such as the torso) of the human figure usually used for displaying apparel

b : a proportioned and often adjustable model for fitting clothes

c : a mold in which concrete is placed to set

- 8 : the printing type or other matter arranged and secured in a chase ready for printing
- 9a : one of the different modes of existence, action, or manifestation of a particular thing or substance : [kind](#) one form of respiratory disorder a form of art
- b : a distinguishable group of organisms
- c : [linguistic form](#)
- d : one of the different aspects a word may take as a result of inflection or change of spelling or pronunciation verbal forms
- e : a mathematical expression of a particular type a bilinear form a polynomial form
- 10a(1) : orderly method of arrangement (as in the presentation of ideas) : manner of coordinating elements (as of an artistic production or course of reasoning)
- (2) : a particular kind or instance of such arrangement the sonnet is a poetical form
- b : [pattern](#), [schema](#) arguments of the same logical form
- c : the structural element, plan, or design of a work of art — compare [content sense 2c](#)
- d : a visible and measurable unit defined by a contour : a bounded surface or volume
- 11 : a grade in a British school or in some American private schools
- 12a(1) : the past performance of a race horse
- (2) : [racing form](#)
- b : known ability to perform a singer at the top of her form
- c : condition suitable for performing (as in athletic competition) back on form

— see also [take form](#)

form

[verb](#)

formed; forming; forms

Definition of *form* (Entry 2 of 4)

[transitive verb](#)

- 1a : to give a particular shape to : shape or mold into a certain state or after a particular model form the dough into a ball a state formed along republican lines
- b : to arrange themselves in the dancers formed a line
- c : to model by instruction and discipline a mind formed by classical education
- 2 : to give form or shape to : [fashion](#), [construct](#) She formed the dough into balls.
- 3 : to serve to make up or constitute : be an essential or basic element of Bonds formed the bulk of his estate.
- 4 : [develop](#), [acquire](#) form a habit
- 5 : to arrange in order : [draw up](#) The battalion was formed into squares for all-around defense.
- 6a : to assume an inflection so as to produce (a form, such as a tense) forms the past in *-ed*
- b : to combine to make (a compound word) "motor" and "cycle" form "motorcycle"

[intransitive verb](#)

- 1 : to become [formed](#) or shaped A clot was forming over the cut.
- 2 : to take form : come into existence : [arise](#) Storm clouds were forming over the hills.
- 3 : to take on a definite form, shape, or arrangement the platoon formed in columns
- form on
- : to take up a [formation](#) next to

form-

[combining form](#)

variants: or formo-

Definition of *form-* (Entry 3 of 4)

: formic acid *formate*

-form

[adjective combining form](#)

Definition of *-form* (Entry 4 of 4)

: in the form or shape of : resembling fili*form*

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Other Words from *form*

Verb

formability \ ,fɔ̄r-mə-'bi-lə-tē  \ noun

formable \ 'fɔ̄r-mə-bəl  \ adjective

Synonyms for *form*

Synonyms: Noun

- [cast](#),
- [configuration](#),
- [conformation](#),
- [fashion](#),
- [figure](#),
- [geometry](#),
- [shape](#)

Synonyms: Verb

- [crystallize](#)
- (also [crystalize](#)),
- [jell](#),
- [shape \(up\)](#),
- [solidify](#)

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Examples of *form* in a Sentence

Noun Coal is a *form* of carbon. a rare *form* of cancer

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Recent Examples on the Web: Noun But exactly what *form* that will take is a work in progress. — [Steve Peoples](#), *Anchorage Daily News*, "GOP signals unwillingness to part with Trump after riot," 27 Jan. 2021 Adults can practice this graceful *form* of exercise in the comfort of their own home at 10 a.m. Jan. 27. — [Shellie Lister](#) | [Contributing Writer](#), *NOLA.com*, "St. Tammany Libraries land grant to teach the history of voting in America," 25 Jan. 2021

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First Known Use of *form*

Noun

13th century, in the meaning defined at [sense 1a](#)

Verb

13th century, in the meaning defined at [transitive sense 1a](#)

History and Etymology for *form*

Noun and Verb

Middle English *forme*, from Anglo-French *furme*, *forme*, from Latin *forma* form, beauty

Combining form

formic

Adjective combining form

French & Latin; French *-forme*, from Latin *-formis*, from *forma*

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Time Traveler for *form*



The first known use of *form* was in the 13th century

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Dictionary Entries near *form*

[for love nor money](#)

[for love or money](#)

[for luck](#)

[form](#)

[form-](#)

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[forma](#)

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Phrases Related to *form*

[as a matter of form](#)

[at the top of one's form](#)

[bad/poor form](#)

[claim form](#)

[form/term of address](#)

[good form](#)

[in any way, shape, or form](#)

Statistics for *form*

Last Updated

3 Feb 2021

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“Form.” *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/form>. Accessed 10 Feb. 2021.

Style: MLA

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More Definitions for *form*

form

noun



English Language Learners Definition of *form*

(Entry 1 of 2)

: a type or kind of something

: one of several or many different ways in which something is seen, experienced, or produced

: the shape of something

form

[verb](#)

English Language Learners Definition of *form* (Entry 2 of 2)

: to cause (something) to have a particular shape or form

: to get, create, or develop (something) over a period of time

: to begin to exist or to be seen

[See the full definition for *form* in the English Language Learners Dictionary.](#)

form

[noun](#)

\ 'fɔrm  \

Kids Definition of *form*

(Entry 1 of 2)

1 : [sort entry 1 sense 1](#), [kind](#) Coal is one *form* of carbon.

2 : the shape and structure of something We saw the bear's huge *form*.

3 : a printed sheet with blank spaces for information Fill out the *form*.

4 : a way of doing something There are different *forms* of worship.

5 : one of the different pronunciations, spellings, or inflections a word may have The plural *form* of “lady” is “ladies.”

6 : a mold in which concrete is placed to set

form

[verb](#)

formed; forming

Kids Definition of *form* (Entry 2 of 2)

1 : to give form or shape to Practice *forming* the letter R.

2 : [develop sense 5](#) He *formed* good study habits.

3 : to come or bring together in making The students *formed* a line.

4 : to take shape : come into being Fog *forms* in the valleys. Ideas were *forming* in her mind.

form

[noun](#)

\ 'fɒ(ə)rɪm  \

Medical Definition of *form*

(Entry 1 of 2)

1a : the shape and structure of something as distinguished from its material

b : a body (as of a person) especially in its external appearance or as distinguished from the face

2 : a distinguishable group of organisms —used especially to avoid taxonomic implications

form

[transitive verb](#)

Medical Definition of *form* (Entry 2 of 2)

: to give a particular shape to : shape or mold into a certain state or after a particular model

[intransitive verb](#)

: to become [formed](#) or shaped a clot formed over the cut

Keep scrolling for more

form

[noun](#)

Legal Definition of *form*

1 : the structure of something (as a document) as distinguished from its matter a defect in form, not substance

2 : established procedure according to rule or practice — see also [form of action](#)

3 : a printed or typed document with blank spaces for insertion of required or requested information tax forms

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Nglish: [Translation of form for Spanish Speakers](#)

Britannica English: [Translation of form for Arabic Speakers](#)

Britannica.com: [Encyclopedia article about form](#)

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